

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 MBFR V 00239 271737Z

73

ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ERDA-05 CIAE-00 H-02 INR-07

IO-10 L-03 NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-03 PRS-01

SAJ-01 SAM-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 NSC-05

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FM USDEL MBFR VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0999

SECDEF WASHDC

INFO USMISSION NATO

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USNMR SHAPE

USCINCEUR

S E C R E T MBFR VIENNA 0239

FROM US REP MBFR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR: DATA EXCHANGE WITH THE EAST

REF: (A) STATE 118334; (B) USNATO 2853; (C) USNATO 2854;
(D) STATE 108800; (E) STATE 105973

1. THE DELEGATION SUPPORTS THE POSITION TAKEN IN
PARAS 6 AND 7 OF REF (A): THAT THE WG SHOULD RESTRICT
ITSELF TO REVIEWING THE SECURITY IMPLICATIONS OF RELEASING
DATA IN A DATA EXCHANGE WITH THE EAST AND THAT THE WG
SHOULD NOT CONSIDER ITSELF CHARGED EITHER TO DEVELOP
NEW DATA OR TO DETERMINE WHICH DATA SHOULD BE RELEASED.
AS FOR THE SCOPE OF THE MANDATE, THE DELEGATION PREFERS
THE WORDING ORIGINALLY GIVEN IN PARA 7 OF REF (A),
WITHOUT THE WORD "MANPOWER" INSERTED ACCORDING TO REF (B).

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 MBFR V 00239 271737Z

2. WE THINK THE UK ARGUMENT FOR MANDATING THE WG TO CONCERN ITSELF WITH TANKTOTALS AS WELL AS MANPOWER REPORTED IN USNATO 2854 IS PERSUASIVE. THE WORK OF THE WG IS INTERNAL AND LIMITED TO PROVIDING INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE TO THE SPC AND THE AHG.

3. FURTHERMORE, THE WEST HAS TABLED TANK TOTALS FOR BOTH NATO AND THE PACT WITH THE EAST AS A MAJOR SUPPORTING ARGUMENT IN THE WESTERN CASE FOR ASYMMETRICAL REDUCTIONS OF GROUND FORCE MANPOWER AND THE REMOVAL OF A TANK ARMY. AFTER HAVING REPEATEDLY REQUESTED THE EAST TO TABLE THE SAME DATA AS THE WEST HAS, WE CANNOT BACK AWAY FROM DISCUSSING TANK FIGURES, SHOULD THE EAST OFFER TO DO SO. NOR IS THERE ANY GOOD REASON TO DO SO. WHATEVER THE PRESENT DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE USG AND NATO OVER THE INTELLIGENCE ESTIMATES OF PACT TANKS (REF 'E', PARA 2), THE MAGNITUDE OF THE DISPARITY IN MAIN BATTLE TANKS BETWEEN NATO AND THE PACT IS NOT AT QUESTION.

4. MOREOVER, LIMITING THE SCOPE OF THE WG MANDATE TO MANPOWER ONLY MIGHT GIVE SOME SUPPORT TO THE FRG TENDENCY, REFLECTED IN THEIR PAPER ON OPTION 3, TO BACK AWAY FROM THE PRESENT WESTERN REQUIREMENT FOR REDUCTION OF SOVIET TANKS IN PHASE I. FYI. FRG REP HERE TELL US THAT THAT PAPER IS NOT FIRM AND DOES NOT REFLECT HIGH LEVEL THINKING. END FYI.

5. WHILE MAINTAINING FOCUS ON GROUND FORCE MANPOWER FIGURES, THE WEST SHOULD NOT ALLOW THE EAST TO MANEUVER IT INTO A POSITION WHERE THE WEST APPEARS WILLING TO DISCUSS ONLY THAT DATA WHICH SUPPORTS ITS OWN REDUCTION PROGRAM. THE EAST IS ALREADY RAISING THIS CHARGE.

6. FOR THESE REASONS, THE DELEGATION SUGGESTS THAT US NATO MISSION BE REQUESTED (A) TO RETURN TO THE ORIGINAL WORDING OF THE MANDATE GIVEN IN STATE 118334 AND (B) TO INDICATE GENERAL US SUPPORT FOR A STUDY OF THE SECURITY IMPLICATIONS AND DATA DIFFICULTIES OF RELEASE OF DATA ON TANKS AS SUGGESTED BY THE UK.

7. IT SHOULD BE POSSIBLE TO DO THIS WITHOUT NECESSARILY
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 MBFR V 00239 271737Z

AGREEING TO THE PRECISE APPROACHES SPELLED OUT IN THE ANNEXES TO THE UK PAPER. WE HOPE IT WILL BE POSSIBLE TO AVOID DETAILED TACTICAL GUIDANCE FROM THE SPC TO THE AD HOC GROUP ON THE TOPIC OF DATA EXCHANGE, SUCH AS IS CONTAINED IN PARAS 9 THROUGH 15 OF THE UK PAPER (TEXT IN USNATO 2854), WHERE A STEP-BY-STEP DEVELOPMENT WITH THE EAST IS LAID OUT. RESOR

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